



ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC
London



Royal College of Music Museum

Museum Making

'Cat-stanets'



What are castanets?

Castanets are a percussion instrument often associated with Spain. They are especially popular in flamenco dance! Versions of the instrument have been used around the world for over 1,000 years.



Castanets are made from a pair of shallow cups tied together with a string. Clapping the cups together creates a 'clack' sound. The player usually has one pair in each hand, each with a slightly different pitch.

Shall we make our own 'cat-stanets?'

Ours castanets are cat themed, in honour of RCM alumnus Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Cats*, but you can decorate yours however you like!

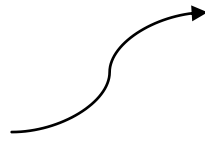
Here's what you'll need:

- A piece of cardboard
- 4 bottle tops
- Coloured card
- Colouring pens or pencils
- Glue or a hot glue gun
- Scissors and a ruler

Cut two 3cm by 16cm strips from your piece of cardboard. Colour one side of the cardboard black and leave the other side plain.

Glue the bottle tops on the plain side of the cardboard with the rough edge down, one on each end of the strip.

Like this!



Next use the coloured card to cut out decorations - such as a nose and eyes for your cat! Attach these to the black side of the cardboard, then use marker or pens to add any other designs to your 'cat-stanets.'

Finally, fold the strips in half so that the bottle tops touch.

Now you have your very own 'cat-stanets!' Here's what ours look like:

